

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2565

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AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 3594

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, PFOR, NP, KN, KS

SUBJECT: KOREAN QUESTION AT UNGA

REF: KATHMANDU 3547

1. A SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, MR. SOYONG CHUNG, PAID A THREE-DAY VISIT TO KATHMANDU FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH NEPALESE OFFICIALS ON KOREAN QUESTIONS AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF THE NON-ALIGNMENT AT LIMA AND OF THE UNGA. HE ALSO DISCUSSED COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN KOREA AND NEPAL AND POSSIBLE KOREAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN NEPAL TO BE SUPPORTED BY THE ROK.

2. THE SPECIAL ENVOY WAS WELL RECEIVED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL. HE HAD MEETINGS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE RASTRIYA PANCHAYAT, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE. HIS VISIT RECEIVED GOOD PRESS COVERAGE IN THE SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS IN NEPAL.

3. IN EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR HONG DURING AND AFTER THE VISIT, WE HAVE ASCERTAINED THAT THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY NEPALESE OFFICIALS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
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SPECIAL ENVOY WERE AS INDICATED IN THE EMBASSY'S PREVIOUS

REPORTS. THE NEPALESE WOULD VOTE FOR THE ADMISSION OF BOTH SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA TO THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP AND, WHILE FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARD THE THRUST OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION WE ARE COSPONSORING, ARE STILL CONSIDERING THEIR POSITION WITH RESPECT TO IT.

4. THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF KOREA MADE KNOWN HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN SUPPORTING A LONG-TERM PROJECT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SILK CULTURE IN NEPAL. A MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY'S PARTY WAS TO REMAIN BEHIND IN KATHMANDU FOR A TWO-WEEK FEASIBILITY SURVEY. AMBASSADOR HONG REPORTS THE NEPALESE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER, ARE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS PROJECT. SOME OTHER POSSIBLE AREAS OF KOREAN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL WERE ALSO DISCUSSED WITH THE NEPALESE.

5. OVER ALL, THE EMBASSY'S IMPRESSION IS THAT THE SPECIAL ENVOY WAS GENERALLY PLEASED WITH HIS VISIT TO NEPAL BUT, IN AMBASSADOR HONG'S APPRAISAL, NOT "ONE HUNDRED PERCENT SATISFIED." THIS WAS PARTLY DUE, WE BELIEVE, TO THE FACT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ARYAL WOULD NOT COMMIT NEPAL TO SPEAK OUT ON THE KOREAN MEMBERSHIP QUESTION AT LIMA OR TO COSPONSOR A RESOLUTION ON THIS SUBJECT.

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